



Goldfields  
Car Club Inc.

Established 1998

# Goldfields Gazette

Newsletter of the  
Goldfields Car Club Inc.

## October 2024



Goldfields  
Car Club Inc.

Registered No: A0037502W



### Postal Address

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### Monthly Meetings

Meetings are held at 7.30pm on the third Wednesday of every month (except January at the Lions' Den, rear of the Pinarc building at 222 Otway Street South, Ballarat.



GCC has been a member of the Association of Motoring Clubs since 1999

## Office Bearers for 2024 - 2025

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### Club Permits

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### Presidents Report'

Greetings everyone.

A well supported month was enjoyed. The lunch at Clunes was very successful, so much so the program committee will be considering including lunch in some more future coffee runs.

If any members have a favorite venue for lunch to suggest, or better still plan a coffee run to include lunch and submit it to the program committee for a date to be allocated.

Further on in the Gazette you will find information on the forthcoming trip to view Ron Schnyder's collection. You may wish to enjoy the stay over option or join the group that plan on driving up to St Arnaud on the Sunday morning.

Some indication of numbers would be appreciated at the October meeting.

Best regards

Peter.

**FROM EDITOR** Please use heatherdarwin@bigpond.com for sending stories and photographs not the gmail address also please do not format your story, just use plain type.

## Our “S” series Valiant

My liking for the Chrysler Valiant started in my long-ago teenager years when I was a member of my local Young Farmers club in Scotsburn. I had turned 18 years of age because I had a driving license and was the proud owner of a brand new 2-cylinder Fiat 500 F vehicle. Being the custodian of this vehicle constituted many fun times for me, and my girlfriend Janet. Some of these memories of what we got up to in this car are still very dear and amusing to me. Maybe I will write some of (but not all) the wonderful times we did have in that little car. But back to the story as to how I fell in love with the Valiant car.

A male member of our Young Farmers Club, Jimmy McKee always drove a Valiant of some sort. Jimmy was a great driver I must state. He was a farmer from Clarendon and a very likeable chap, however his personality revolved entirely around his car and how well it went and what a great “note” it had. It was a common practice for our club to go away on exchange weekends to other Young Farmers clubs from around the state and sometimes inter-state. On these trips Janet and I always elected to travel with Jimmy because “he had style” and getting to where ever we were going was always exciting. We girls always sat in the back seat, and I can’t remember how many times we would be pulled over whilst driving near country towns by the police. We would just sit in our seat and be lit up with red and blue lights flashing behind us. Jimmy was always over delighted with a bit of speed and we always had to set out on a Friday night to reach destinations far away. We never ever broke down and always arrived safely. When we finally reached our destination, we were billeted out to local members’ homes for accommodation. This would be the last we would see of Jimmy until it was time for the return journey. Janet and I would then check out the local blokes and their cars, whilst Jimmy would be promoting his understated cool vehicle to our hosts. I recon the fastest car I came across on one of these trips was with the Portland club and it was a Mini Cooper S. I sometimes wonder when I see one on the road these days if the driver of that car is still alive, because this fellow would pass us all no matter where or when. It was always interesting to see who drove what vehicle, and how hot were they, and how hot was their car.

I cannot remember that Jimmy ever drove an “S” series but I have always loved the shape of them and the up and go capability that the Chrysler motor car has. They are an exciting car to drive on the road even with today’s modern vehicles. My “S” series is very dear to me and is quite noticeable on the road. I am determined to leave the car the way we found it with a lovely patina of surface rust, because I know the body of the vehicle is rust free and solid with a motor that will take me wherever I would want to go. She is solid on the road and I feel very confident driving her, she is like an old friend.

Frances O’B..





### Lunch run

Thursday to Clunes National Hotel and Lambley nursery. Twenty members attended. The lunch was very good and an extensive menu. Following lunch we sat in the sunshine with coffee. While chatting and gathering in the street a small convoy of Austin Sevens rolled in and parked. We had to do an inspection and have a chat, lovely little cars and nice people. Then proceeded to the Nursery to view a great display of Tulips and other flowers. A pleasant social day with fine weather ..Trevor



## The Golden Oldies Tour, 25<sup>th</sup> August to 1<sup>st</sup> September 2024.

Organised by the Federation Victoria and supported by the R.A.C.V.

The Golden Oldies Tour is for pre 1930 cars. The rally Director Anne Davis did an amazing job. There were 51 cars from Victoria and interstate. Pam and I travelled to Bendigo on the 24<sup>th</sup> and had dinner with our daughter and family. On the 25<sup>th</sup> August we went to the Marong Federation Picnic, where the Golden Oldies were flagged off after lunch. We travelled to Dunolly checking out the Museums and Op Shops, then on to Maryborough for the night. We managed to avoid most of the storms. From Maryborough on the 26<sup>th</sup> we toured to Clunes bottle Museum then on to Castlemaine to the Harley City Collection via many twists and turns. Back to Maryborough for the night, 169 kms for the day. 27<sup>th</sup> Maryborough to Daylesford, lunch at the Mount Alexander Engine Club, they provided a very nice lunch. 28<sup>th</sup> Daylesford to Ballarat area we visited 3 interesting Collections one our very own Norm and Heather Darwin's. Then back to Daylesford for the night, 29<sup>th</sup> Daylesford to Trentham for lunch, a very heavy fog to begin with just to make life a little bit difficult. After lunch on to Ballarat area where we spent 3 days touring around Ballarat and District visiting various Collections and points of interest.

The areas travelled were on back roads, some very hilly winding and challenging both the drivers and cars. 3 cars had damaged tourer hoods owing to the high winds experienced on most days. There were Dinners each night, competitions at some, the Ballarat Team managed to win one night. The next night we had a guest speaker, our very own Norm Darwin, he spoke on Fishermans Bend. At the final Dinner there was an Auction with proceeds going to Charity.

It was a great experience and our 1929 Chrysler survived it well. We could recommend the Golden Oldies Tour to anyone who has a Vintage Car.

Pam and Gordon Roberts.

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## AMERICAN CHROME AND COFFEE

Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> February 2025 9.00am  
North Gardens Lake Wendouree

Last year I approached the GCC to see if the club would host the American Chrome and Coffee annual car show which is conducted in February each year. Prior to 2024 a small group conducted this event on an informal basis but this left access to North Gardens Lake Wendouree as a precarious situation as there was no guarantee that access would be available on the day.

This year there were 100 cars on show and this was up 35 cars on the previous year, and with this number it would be unmanageable without GCC support. We would be very grateful if Goldfields Car Club would again host this event as it has allowed for an approved permit to be obtained from the City of Ballarat and also ensures that the requirements of Heritage Victoria are met. There is no financial cost for this event to GCC.

The event is free entry to enthusiasts and the public and consequently we are grateful to the City of Ballarat for their generosity in allowing us access to this wonderful site. This is a static display and a minimum of 8 volunteers or more, from GCC on the day would be sufficient to control the gate and marshal the car parking.



This number of volunteers would enable rotation and free up volunteers to take time to view the cars on show. At the October club meeting I would be grateful for an indication of volunteers as we would like to know that the support is there before formally committing our application to the City of Ballarat.

Anyone available to assist could you please add your name to the list to be circulated at the meeting OR phone me on 0418399339. I encourage club members to support this event.

John SMYTH 0418399339



Club Run Metcalfe



## HAVE YOU EVER BEEN TO METCALFE?



Coffee at Trentham on route to Metcalfe.

LEFT Jason & John Lees Holden Museum Metcalfe

Shortly we arrived at a property with a shed surrounded by one of everything of old very patinaed Holdens. John and Jason Lee, the owners of this property made us very welcome as they ushered us under cover from the still persistent rain. John was once the proprietor of the Holden dealership in Kyneton, an unassuming gentleman with a great knowledge of his subject, and his son Jason also takes great interest in the Holden brand.

Inside the shed revealed a most comprehensive collection of cars and memorabilia that one would wish to see. The shed contained a mezzanine floor absolutely cram packed with all sorts of interesting Holden related collectables and keepsakes. What a surprise to witness a collection like this is in such a quiet charming location “away from the maddening crowd” as it were. It just proves that we don’t know what is contained in sheds that we pass.

This run turned out to be a run for the True Goldfield supporters and we thank Julie and Steve for the offering and planning of this day. You prearranged it to perfection and we will forgive you for getting the moisture content of the day wrong. At least our gardens received a good soaking and now my tanks are full again. There are just some things that are beyond our human control.

Thank you, Julie & Steve, we had a most enjoyable day out, and I for one got to see parts of the country that I have never experienced before.

We look forward to our next adventure with you both because we know you take time to be sure that everything is just right for all our members to enjoy and appreciate.

Many thanks Frances O’B

Well now I have been there; and so has about 12 fellow Goldfield members. On a cold and wet foreboding Sunday morning seven cars left the North Bus exchange and headed toward Trentham for a very civilised morning tea break at “Aterics” which is a café we need to remember because the parking was easy and kept us away from the main street. As we stepped from our cars the rain continued to fall leaving all the gutters running a banker, but we made it through the door to enjoy a very good coffee and for some a cake as well.

Back on the road again we followed our intrepid leader toward Metcalfe along some roads that I had never travelled before. What picturesque scenery we encountered. At one stage we could have collected a few ducks which waddled across the road, and not far after, a fine example of wombat road kill. (I have been told they are delicious to eat and taste better than roast pork). So, I recon next time we head the Metcalfe way a barbeque of foraged nourishment would be a delicious lunch time difference.

## POETS CORNER

During our recent club weekend away to Tocomwal we did a self-entertaining activity which asked participants to add to, or complete a poem which I had given a 2-sentence clue as to what the poem was to be about. It turns out that we are a very talented lot. The results were really funny and members creative capabilities shone through. I should have collected all the poems which were written to publish in this our Club magazine. So, if you still have a copy of your poem, please send it to the editor so as it can be published at so

me stage. We won't reveal your name if you are a little hesitant, but you really should be very proud of your skills. Meanwhile I will let you read my poem which I wrote at the last minute.

### OUR CLUB

What friendships to me motor cars have brought  
Ones that forgive others inadequacies and occasional rort  
The kind of people who are tolerant and happy  
We even have some funny buggers who are bright and zappy.

We drive for miles and miles following each other  
Over bush and main roads and trails we will discover  
Meals in pubs or beside a lake  
We have a really great time, no mistake.



We are a great cross section of the population  
An older edition of our great nation  
We get on well and have many a fun time  
We even write poems that actually rhyme

May God bless us all as we travel this great ground  
Because we are not entirely sure how long we will be  
around.

Let's count our blessings for we have all been lucky  
Because we very likely started off with a horse and  
buggy.

Frances O'B

### THE LITTLE BLUE BIRD AUSTIN LANCER 1958

For quite some time I had been thinking that I needed a little old car just for me. I really thought that my aspiration would never happen. But I became quite hopeful after attending a Vintage Caravan event in Renmark on the weekend of 8<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> of August. I met a fellow named Les Johnson who told me he has a brother aged 88 years of age and he had a neat little Austin Lancer which he had owned for 39 years, and was looking for a nice person to purchase it from him. Now one would have thought this dear old bloke, named Dick Johnson would be retiring from driving because of age, but not so, Dick has taken up learning to fly. He is very passionate about his new hobby in the sky. As he is a very fit 88-year-old. Dick was once a

motor mechanic and an Elfen race car driver both here in Australia and in the UK. He can certainly still drive like a race driver, as he demonstrated when he took me for a drive in the little car. I felt quite inadequate when it was my turn to take the steering wheel. I stalled it, and then hopped, and hopped again whilst trying to take off.

Chris & I arose at 5 am from slumber to leave home by 6 am to drive all the way to Bridgewater in the Adelaide hills. S.A. We got to our destination about 2.30pm and were greeted by Dick and his wife which were a lovely old-fashioned couple. She was making quince jelly and blood orange marmalade when we arrived and gave us a bottle of each.

When Dick took us to see the little car I knew as soon as he lifted the garage door that it would be going home with me. It is a 1958 model and for its age it has been incredibly well looked after. Dick has always worked on English cars and this vehicle goes well and looks good too. I am not implying that this car is without fault, but it will suit me to drive up the road. Not only did we purchase this little car we also got stacks of spare parts, so many in fact we need to go back to get the rest of the parts at some stage. It is going to take me a little while to get used the gears and accelerator to my dear little Blue Bird.



Frances O'B



## BALLARAT CUP DEC 7 PARKING HELP

Greetings Members, as you are no doubt aware the club has historically provided members to supervise parking at the Ballarat Cup. It is a great no risk fundraiser for the club and contributed over \$1,500.00 to our finances last year. It looks like we will be asked to undertake this task again this year. I am asking for members, where possible, to keep Dec 7<sup>th</sup> free. We require 12 people, to allow for rest breaks and the like. It would be great if you are able to assist with this and hopefully the weather is better than it has been for the last couple of years. I will be compiling a list of names as the cup gets closer.

Cheers Gerard Nagle



### **Proposed trip to View Ron Schnider's Collection on the 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> of October.**

Departure from behind the St Arnaud Town Hall @ 10.15 am, Sunday the 27<sup>th</sup> travel to Ron's place, have a picnic lunch and the view the collection.

Two options:- . Option one:-

For people who wish to stay over, some of us will be travelling there on Friday, others will travel there on Saturday.

It is proposed that we will have dinner at the Club on Saturday night.

Attached is a list of accommodation venues.

Motel St Arnaud.	{03} 5495 1755
Kings Avenue Motel,	0409 908 160
Country Road Motel.	{03} 5495 2255
La Cochon Rose Motel.	0415 872 597
St Arnaud C.V Park	{03} 5495 1447
St Arnaud Old Post Office Apartments	0430 108 548 grahamfrancis03@gmail.com sleeps 3

B.Y.O Lunch, morning and afternoon tea.

Option two:-

Stuart will be driving to St Arnaud on Sunday morning, anyone wishing to join this convoy it will be departing the old Masters car park @ 8.15 am ETA at St Arnaud 10.00 am.

B.Y.O Lunch, morning and afternoon tea.

## COMBINED RUN TO MT FRANKLIN

Goldfields have been invited to the VCCC picnic run to Mt Franklin on Sunday 20th October 2024 Monthly Club Run.

The Picnic at Mt Franklin is on again after a (long) pause due to covid. This is an inter-club event with any other car clubs welcome to join us. Bring yourselves a picnic lunch and seats. Leaving from the old Ballarat

Showgrounds in Creswick Road at 9.45am for a leisurely 70km drive through the countryside to arrive at the Mount about 11.15am. After lunch feel free to continue your journey by visiting nearby Daylesford & Hepburn.

For further information contact Mike Simpson – 0419935147

2024		GOLDFIELDS CAR CLUB CALENDAR OF EVENTS		Events & details subject to change
Oct	Thursday 10	Coffee Run	Coffee..Lunch run Thursday October 10 to be held at Wallace Hotel from 11.30 onwards..sharing with the Petrol Sniffers car club. Meet at the venue to view vehicle's before lunch.	Trevor Parry 0408 580 523
	Wednesday 16	Club Meeting	Lion's Den 7.30pm Talk on preventing falls	
	Wednesday 23	Ladies Coffee	The Olive Grove 1303 Sturt St 10am - 11am New faces welcome Chris/Marg Free parking at front in Sturt St	Chris Bell 0400 099 532 Margaret Gavan 0408 334 926
	Saturday/Sunday 26/27	Club Run/Weekend	Ron Schnider Collection Rupanyup, staying at St Arnaud. More details to come.	Trevor Parry 0408 580 523
Nov	Thursday 14	Coffee Run	TBA	
	Saturday 16		Bendigo Swap	
	Sunday 17	Club Run	Moonambel Patina Breakdown \$10/car entry	Frances & Chris O'Beirne 0488 464 500 0417 129 373
	Wednesday 20	Club Meeting	Lion's Den 7.30pm	
	Wednesday 27	Ladies Coffee	The Olive Grove 1303 Sturt St 10am - 11am New faces welcome Chris/Marg Free parking at front in Sturt St	Chris Bell 0400 099 532 Margaret Gavan 0408 334 926
Dec	Sunday 8	Lunch	Invermay Sports Club Christmas Lunch	
	Thursday 12	Coffee Run	TBA	
	Wednesday 18	Club Meeting	Lion's Den 7.30pm	

### FOR SALE

\$15,900.00 RWC provided.  
 Contact: Chris Bell 0487765294  
 TOYOTA COROLLA Ascent Sport  
 137440 kms  
 Petrol CVT 1.8L 5 Door Hatch  
 Automatic, Air Conditioning  
 Rear Reverse Camera.  
 Compliance Date 09/2015  
 Registration Due 30 October 2025  
 Fully documented Ballarat Toyota service  
 history.  
 Next Service 147000 kms OR 15 Feb 2025  
 PIRELLI tyres fitted at 109360 kms.



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